Legislation to Prevent Power Thefts

4806. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are planning to bring forward a legislation to prevent power thefts throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposed legislation is likely to be presented to Parliament;

(c) whether Government have made any assessment as to the total value of power theft in the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken so far to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Theft of power has already been recognised as a cognizable offence under the Section 39 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 with deterrent punishment upto 3 years imprisonment, or fine of not less than Rs. 1000 or both. However, the Government is considering to introduce a new scheme under which funds will be provided to power utilities to undertake investment in sub-transmission and distribution projects including the provision of meters at all levels with the object of reducing T&D losses and improving the operational efficiency of State Power Utilities. However, release of funds would be contingent on the State Government accepting conditionalities with regard to reform and restructuring.

(c) and (d) The losses being incurred by various State Governments on account of power theft cannot be assessed separately. The total T&D losses due to theft of power, losses due to technical reasons and unaccounted losses has been assessed by the concerned State Electricity Board/State Electricity Department for the years 1993-94 to 1997-98 are given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(e) Though the power distribution falls within the purview of the State Governments and the activities pertaining to prevention of theft of electricity and removing of illegal connection have to be taken care of by the power utilities operating under their jurisdiction, theft of electricity has been made a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the utilities have to effectively implement the provisions of the law to curb the theft of electricity.

Guidelines for Energy Audit and for reduction of transmission and distribution losses have already been issued which included:—

(i) Installation of meters inside tamper proof meter boxes sealed with numbered seals.

(ii) Setting up of vigilance squads and conducting surprise raids to check theft of energy.

(iii) Prosecution against persons found indulging in theft of energy.

In the Power Ministers' Conference held on 26.2.2000, it was resolved to reduce the T&D losses by energy audit, 100% metering, and by strengthening/ upgrading the sub-transmission and distribution system.

STATEMENT

Percentage Transformation Transmission and Distribution Losses (Including Commercial Losses such as Pilferage etc.) in SEBs/EDs

REGION		SEBs/Eds	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98*
NORTHERN REGION	1.	HARYANA	25.00	30.80	32.39	32.77	33.04#
	2.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	18.31	18.21	16.09	18.02	19.20
	3.	JAMMU & KASHMIR	45.69	48.74	47.52	48.27	47.48$
	4.	PUNJAB	19.37	16.70	18.49	19.10	17.90
	5.	RAJASTHAN	25.00	24.78	29.27	26.28	26.46
	6.	UTTAR PRADESH	24.08	21.69	21.84	24.84	25.00
	7.	CHANDIGARH	27.27	28.44	33.72	21.88	14.95
	8.	DVB (DELHI)	31.79	34.56	48.57	49.08	46.86#
WESTERN REGION	1.	GUJARAT	20.34	20.02	20.08	17.14	19.66
	2.	MADHYA PRADESH	20.26	19.61	17.84	19.24	19.08
	3.	MAHRASHTRA	16.22	16.33	16.95	16.55	17.73
	4.	D&N HAVELI	12.64	11.35	9.31	8.80	NA
	5.	GOA	24.50	26.87	26.06	23.50	23.39
	6.	DAMAN & DIU	22.34	16.30	12.80	8.15	11.27

REGION		SEBs/Eds	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98*
SOUTHERN REGION	1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	19.91	17.95	19.34	33.19	31.76
	2.	KARNATAKA	19.55	19.41	19.06	18.73	18.56
	3.	KERALA	20.00	20.05	21.12	20.59	17.87
	4.	TAMIL NADU	17.18	17.11	16.19	17.65	17.00
	5.	LAKSHA-DWEEP	16.99	17.84	17.23	15.11	15.83
	6.	PONDICHERRY	15.80	15.00	16.54	17.38	13.79
EASTERN REGION	1.	BIHAR	20.35	19.76	15.91	25.31	25.41
	2.	ORRISA (GRIDCO)	22.43	23.03	24.17	50.15	NA
	3.	SIKKIM	22.60	21.22	16.47	29.24	20.13
	4.	WEST BENGAL	20.82	21.51	19.26	18.01	20.34
	5.	A & N ISLS	23.71	22.38	19.25	19.15	20.51
NORTH-EASTERN REGION	1.	ASSAM	22.44	24.18	26.91	25.97	30.05
	2.	MANIPUR	23.92	25.30	24.85	22.95	21.50$
	3.	MEGHALAYA	18.03	18.47	12.55	19.75	17.93
	4.	NAGALAND	33.45	36.12	35.17	26.81	29.50$
	5.	TRIPURA	30.53	31.96	30.86	30.11	29.75
	6.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	42.04	45.30	37.12	32.62	30.99$
	7.	MIZORAM	31.89	29.76	25.18	34.35	47.00$
ALL INDIA UTILITIES			21.41	21.13	22.27	24.53	24.44

SOURCE : DMLF DIVISION CEA. (GENERAL REVIEW)

* DATA IS TENTATIVE AS REPORTED BY SEBs/EDs.

\# COMPUTED FIGURES.

$ AS REPORTED IN THE ANNUAL PLAN RESOURCES PAPER SUBMITTED TO PLANNING COMMISSION

NA INFORMATION NOT YET FURNISHED BY THE SEB/ED

Recovery of Power Dues

4807. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state: